



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**Chief Financial Officer**  
**Assistant Secretary for Administration**  
Washington, D.C. 20230

DEC 23 2018

Emma Best  
MuckRock News  
411A Highland Ave  
Dept. MR 49294  
Somerville, MA 02144

RE: Freedom of Information Act Request DOC-OS-2019-000153

Ms. Best:

The Department of Commerce received the enclosed documents in response to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request (processed under case number DOC-OS-2019-000153) that were referred to us from NARA.

In processing this request, we have reviewed the documents pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended. The documents that originated with our agency are being partially redacted based on FOIA exemption U.S.C. § 552 (b)(7)(E), which exempts from disclosure records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes.

If you have any questions or concerns or would like to discuss any aspect of your request, you may contact Bobbie Parsons, FOIA Officer, by e-mail at [BParsons@doc.gov](mailto:BParsons@doc.gov) or by phone at (202) 482-3257.

Please refer to your FOIA request tracking number, DOC- OS-2019-000153, when contacting us.

In addition, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows:

Office of Government Information Services  
National Archives and Records Administration  
8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS  
College Park, Maryland 20740-6001  
e-mail at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov);  
telephone at 202741-5770; toll free at 1 877-684-6448; facsimile at 202-741-5769

You have the right to appeal this partial denial of your FOIA request. An appeal must be received within 90 calendar days of the date of this response letter. Address your appeal to the following office:

Assistant General Counsel for Employment, Litigation and Information  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Office of the General Counsel, Room 5896  
1401 Constitution Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

An appeal may also be sent by e-mail to [FOIAAppeals@doc.gov](mailto:FOIAAppeals@doc.gov) or by FOIAonline, if you have

an account in FOIAonline, at <https://foiaonline.regulations.gov/foia/action/public/home#>. The appeal should include a copy of the original request and initial denial, if any. All appeals should include a statement of the reasons why the records requested should be made available and why the adverse determination was in error.

The appeal letter, the envelope, and the e-mail subject line should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." The e-mail, FOIAonline, and office mail are monitored only on working days during normal business hours (8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday). FOIA appeals posted to the e-mail box, FOIAonline, or the office after normal business hours will be deemed received on the next normal business day. If the 90th calendar day for submitting an appeal falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal public holiday, an appeal received by 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time, the next business day will be deemed timely.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Townsend", written over a horizontal line.

Richard Townsend  
Director for Security  
Office of Security  
Department of Commerce

Enclosures

